GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5403
ANSWERED ON:05.05.2008
CRASH OF MIG AIRCRAFT
Subba Shri Moni Kumar

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in the wake of numerous air crashes involving MiG variants,a comprehensive review of operations was undertaken to upgrade the MiGs under operation with the Indian Air Force (IAF);

(b) if so, the details and outcome thereof;

(c) the latest position of the MiG aircraft fleet with the IAF alongwith the plans to renovate, upgrade or dispose of the MiG fleet;

(d) whether even the upgraded Bison aircraft have failed to become fully operational and safe and a large part of the fleet is grounded for want of maintenance and spares; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and reason therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY)

(a) to (e): Currently, the Indian Air Force (IAF) is operating MiG 21 aircrafts and its variants. Upgradation of aircrafts in terms of avionics and weapon systems to improve the operational capability, is a continuous exercise. Replacement/phase out plan for MiG aircraft has already commenced. The oldest variant of MiG 29 aircraft is currently being phased out in a planned manner keeping in tune with their operational life and availability of new aircraft for induction. IAF has a regular maintenance schedule to ensure operability of the Bison aircraft. In order to improve the serviceability of Bison fleet of MiG aircraft, IAF has already gone into a Long Term Maintenance Contract with various foreign firms and overhaul facilities are also being set up at HAL (Hindustan Aeronautics Limited).